Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Webb, R.G. 2008. *Sceloporus poinsettii*.

Sceloporus poinsettii Baird and Girard Crevice Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus poinsettii Baird and Girard 1852:126. Type-locality, "Rio San Pedro of the Rio Grande del Norte, and the province of Sonora," restricted to either the southern part of the Big Burro Mountains or the vicinity of Santa Rita, Grant County, New Mexico by Webb (1988). Lectotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 2952 (subsequently recataloged as USNM 292580), adult male, collected by John H. Clark in company with Col. James D. Graham during his tenure with the U.S.-Mexican Boundary Commission in late August 1851 (examined by author). See **Remarks**.

Sceloporus poinsetii: Duméril 1858:547. *Lapsus*.

Tropidolepis poinsetti: Dugès 1869:143. Invalid emendation (see **Remarks)**.

Sceloporus torquatus Var. C.: Bocourt 1874:173.

Sceloporus poinsetti: Yarrow "1882"[1883]:58. Invalid emendation.

S.[celoporus] t.[orquatus] poinsettii: Cope 1885:402.

Seloporus poinsettiii: Herrick, Terry, and Herrick 1899:123. *Lapsus*.

Sceloporus torquatus poinsetti: Brown 1903:546.

Sceloporus poissetti: Král 1969:187. *Lapsus*.

S.[celoporus] poinssetti: Méndez-De la Cruz and Gutiérrez-Mayén 1991:2. *Lapsus*.

Scelophorus poinsettii: Cloud, Mallouf, Mercado-Allinger, Hoyt, Kenmotsu, Sanchez, and Madrid 1994:119. *Lapsus*.

Sceloporus poinsetti aureolus: Auth, Smith, Brown, and Lintz 2000:72. **See Remarks**.

Sceloporus poinsetti mucronatus: Auth, Smith, Brown, and Lintz 2000:72. **See Remarks**.

Sceloporus poinsetti omiltemanus: Auth, Smith, Brown, and Lintz 2000:72. **See Remarks**.

Sceloporus poinsettia: Jones 2005:331. *Lapsus*.

• **CONTENT**. Five subspecies are currently recognized: *poinsettii, amydrus, axtelli, macrolepis*, and *polylepis*.

• **DEFINITION**. The head is either mostly unicolor (pale or dark) without definitive markings, has a contrasting pattern of small white spots/markings, or a distinctive black cruciform blotch posteriorly. The solid black uninterrupted collar (usually 3–5 scales wide) has whitish anterior and posterior borders (both about 2 scales wide), both of which may be narrowly interrupted medially. The collar may be lengthened and curved posteriorly. A pale bluish scale or scales (small spot) usually occurs just above the shoulder within the black collar. A whitish intertympanic band (continuous or interrupted) of variable distinctness may be almost absent. The pattern on the back usually consists of 2–4 crossbands (distinctness variable), but may be of irregularly arranged dark marks



Figure 1. Adult male *Sceloporus poinsettii poinsettii* (UTEP 8714) from the Magdalena Mountains, Socorro County, New Mexico (photo by author).



Figure 2. Adult female *Sceloporus poinsettii axtelli* (UTEP 11510) from Alamo Mountain (Cornudas Mountains), Otero County, New Mexico (photo by author).



Figure 3. *Sceloporus poinsettii macrolepis* from 6 miles southeast Llano Grande, Durango, Mexico (photo by author).

(no crossbands) or be confined to dark vertebral blotches (separated by whitish spots), or the back is patternless. Dorsal body scales may have black edges (crossbands and interspaces) that are aligned to form longitudinal black lines. The tail usually has contrasting black (widest) and white bands that distally form rings (pigment faded ventrally). Juveniles have a dark bluish barred and spotted pattern on the chin and throat, usually with a midventral pale streak. Adults of both sexes have blue throats and ventrolateral, dark-bordered, blue belly patches with dark pigment across the throat, on the chest, and midventrally, but colors are brightest and most extensive in large

males (rarely, ventral coloration is almost absent in both sexes).

The supraoculars are divided, but scales of the medial row may be noticeably enlarged. The frontal is usually transversely divided; the anterior half is either entire or longitudinally divided. The posterior frontal-frontoparietal area is often fragmented into irregularly arranged small scales. Dorsal scales are keeled (but the vertebral rows are mostly smooth in large adults), and vary from 25–43. There are 31–47 scales around midbody, 7–16 (one leg) femoral pores with extremes of 7–7 and 14–16, and 6–17 scales between the pore series. Males have a pair of enlarged postanal scales and attain a larger maximum size (SVL 137 mm) than females (128 mm) (Ballinger (1973).

• **DIAGNOSIS**. Large, undivided supraoculars distinguish *S. jarrovii* populations in western Mexico (including *lineolateralis*) and *S. torquatus* from *S. poinsettii* (divided supraoculars; large medial row of scales often enlarged suggesting undivided supraoculars; see Fig. 1 in Webb 2006). The smaller *S. ornatus* (maximum SVL less than 100 mm) also has divided supraoculars, but also differs from *S. poinsettii* in having tiny dorsal scales that usually number more than 50 (44–67, Axtell 1971; highest number in *S. poinsettii* is 44). *Sceloporus cyanostictus* and *S. oberon* also possess divided supraoculars, and all 5 species differ from *S. poinsettii* in lacking the pale intertympanic band and the contrasting black-and-white tail bands (tails usually have discernable but indistinct bands; tail banding may be moderately distinct in some specimens of *S. ornatus*).

Individuals of *Sceloporus cyanogenys* are frequently confused with *S. poinsettii*. In southeastern Coahuila and adjacent Nuevo León, the rear of the head and the neck in *S. cyanogenys*, anterior to the white-bordered black collar, usually has scattered, distinct, often rather large white spots, not close together or rarely linearly arranged (scattered, large white spots absent, except those arranged close together in a single row as intertympanic band in *S. poinsettii*). The dark banding of the tail is usually indistinct in *S. cyanogenys* (occasionally contrasting); however, distally the dark tail bands do not occur on the unmarked ventral surface in *S. cyanogenys* whereas faded, dark tail bands are present ventrally in *S. poinsettii*. The pattern on the back and the number of dorsal scales may be somewhat similar in the two species. Although the arrangement of supraoculars in some individuals may resemble that in *S. poinsettii*, the supraoculars in *S. cyanogenys* usually are either undivided (4 enlarged) or only 1–2 of the median supraoculars are divided. In eastern Coahuila, the general area of sympatry between the two species, the dorsal head scales in the posterior frontal-frontoparietal area are symmetrically arranged in *S. cyanogenys*, but are often irregularly subdivided in *S. poinsettii*, and the preocular usually is divided in *S. cyanogenys* but undivided in *S. poinsettii*. Hunsaker (1962) noted species discrimination in intermixed captives of *S. cyanogenys* and *S. poinsettii* with the sexes of each species pairing together.



Figure 4. Adult male *Sceloporus poinsettii polylepis* (UTEP 3730) from Huertecillas, San Luis Potosí, Mexico (photo by author).

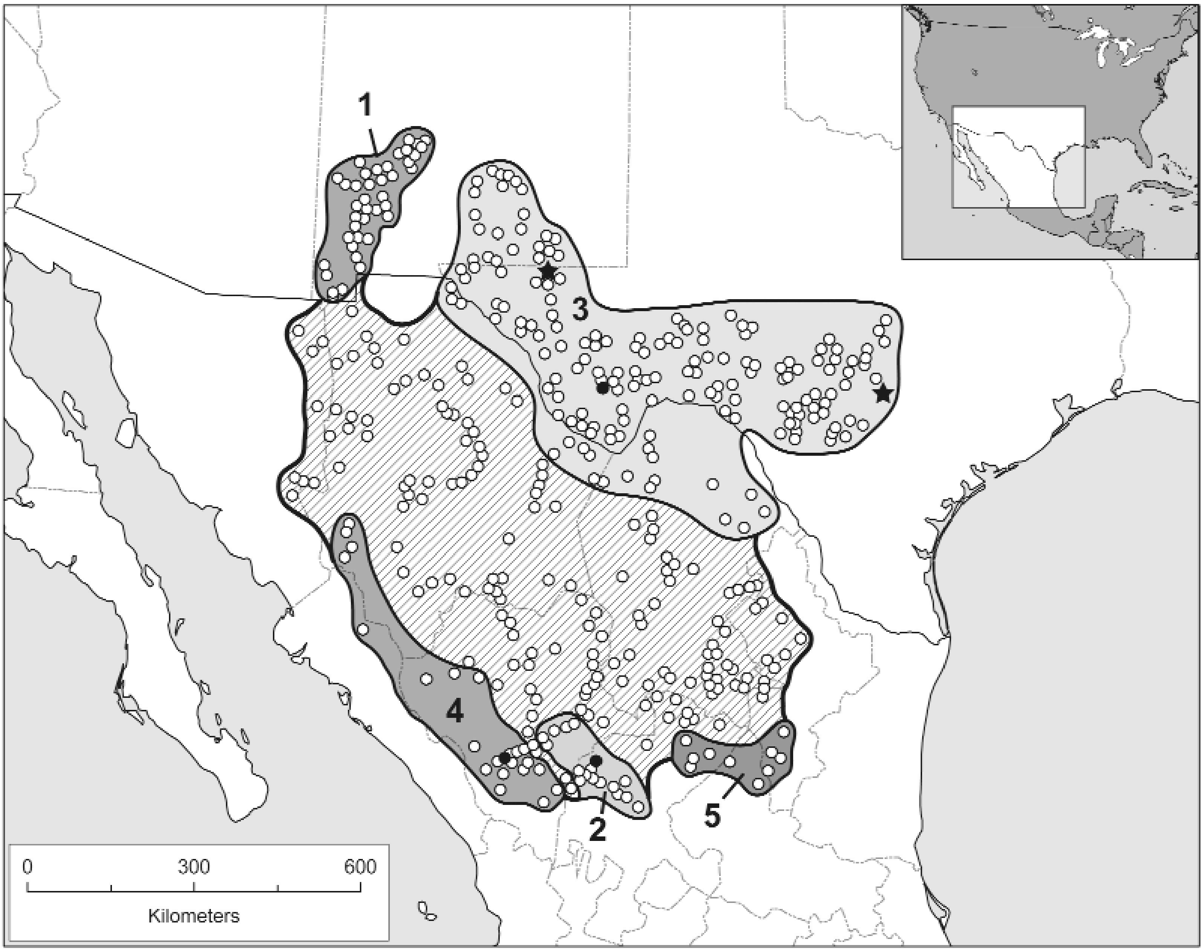


Figure 5. Adult female, *Sceloporus poinsettii* morphologically intermediate variant; near topotypic *S. p. polylepis* [see text] (UTEP 9222) from 20 miles northwest (Hwy 49) Escalón, Chihuahua (photo by author).



Figure 6. Adult female, *Sceloporus poinsettii* morphologically intermediate variant (UTEP 4438) from 4 kilometers north San Juan de los Charcos, Zacatecas (photo by author).

• **DESCRIPTIONS**. Smith (1936 [1938]) noted that prior descriptions in Boulenger (1885, 1897) and Cope (1900) included specimens of more than one species. Descriptions of adults in field guides include Ballinger and Lynch (1983), Bartlett and Bartlett (1999), Behler and King (1979), Cochran and Goin (1970), Conant (1958, 1975), Conant and Collins (1991, 1998), Garrett and Barker (1987), MacMahon (1985), Smith and Brodie (1982), and Stebbins (1966, 1985, 2003). Other descriptions are in Degenhardt et al. (1996), Ditmars (1936), Smith (1946),



Map. Distribution of *Sceloporus poinsettii*. Solid circles indicate type-localities (imprecise for *S. p. poinsettii*; see **Remarks** under *S. p. polylepis*;), open circles other localities. Some symbols share more than one locality. Stars indicate fossil localities. Guide to subspecies (numbered and demarcated by solid lines; other symbols represent intergrades): 1. *S. poinsettii poinsettii*; 2. *S. p. amydrus*; 3. *S. p. axtelli*; 4. *S. p. macro-lepis*; 5. *S. p. polylepis*.

Stebbins (1954), Vermersch (1992), and Williamson et al. (1994). Additional descriptive data of varying detail are in Domínguez et al. ("1974"[1977]), Gloyd and Smith (1942), Günther (1890; see Smith, 1987:xxxi), Herrick et al. (1899), Köhler and Heimes (2002), Lemos-Espinal et al. (1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004a, 2004b), McDiarmid et al. (1976), Milstead (1953), Olson (1998), Smith (1936[1938], 1939), Smith and Chrapliwy (1958), Smith et al. (2005a, 2005b), Tanner (1987), Taylor (1931), Treviño-Saldaña (1988), Van Denburgh (1922), and Werning (2002). Neonates are described in Axtell (1950), Greene (1970), Pflugmacher (1988), and Ramsey and Donlon (1949). Fitch (1978, 1981) described sexual size differences. The most recent description, including all 5 subspecies, is in Webb (2006). Descriptive features other than external morphology are noted below (**Pertinent Literature**).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS**. **Line drawings** are in Baird (1859, lectotype), Bocourt (1874:Pl. XVIII, Fig. 9c [not 9a], supraoculars), Herrick et al. (1899:Pl. XV [explanation of Figs. p. 148], Figs. 6 [entire animal], 7 [auricular scales], 8 [top of head]), Cope (1900: head [dor sal, ventral, lateral], hindlimb-anal region, and body scalation), Smith ("1936"[1938]; dorsal [same in Smith 1946] and lateral [same in Smith 1939] head scalation), Stebbins (1954), Ballinger and Lynch (1983), Olson (1998; dentary teeth) and Webb (2006; variation in dorsal head scalation). Wiens and Reeder (1997) also provide a schematic illustration of posterior lingual dentary teeth. **Black-and-white photographs or drawings** are in Aseff-Martinez (1967), Conant (1958, 1975), Ditmars (1936), Greene (1970; neonate), Grenot (1983), Grenot et al. (1978), Pope 1960), Smith (1936 [1938], 1946), Szarski (1960), Webb (1988; lectotype and paralectotypes), and Webb (2006; specimens representing all 5 subspecies and intergrades). **Color photographs or drawings** are in Bartlett and Bartlett (1999), Behler and King (1979), Conant and Collins (1991, 1998), Degenhardt et al. (1996), Garrett and Barker (1987), Jes (1987), Köhler and Heimes (2002), Lemos Espinal and Smith (2007a,b), Lemos-Espinal et al. (2004c), MacMahon (1985), Smith and Brodie (1982), Stebbins (1966, 1985, 2003), Vermersch (1992), Werning (2002), and Williamson et al. (1994). **Photomicrographs of karyotypes** are in Cole et al. (1967) and Hall (1973). **Drawings** of the urogenital system are in Mulaik (1946), of display-action (head-bob) patterns

in Carpenter (1978), Hunsaker (1962), and Martins (1993), and of clavicle-scapulocoracoid, pectoral girdle, sternum, and dorsal aspect of the skull in Etheridge (1964).

• **DISTRIBUTION**. *Sceloporus poinsettii* is associated with rocky, bouldered sites of low, dry hills in desert and grassland, or in mountainous terrain in pine-oak forest, and ranges from New Mexico and central and west Texas south into northern Mexico through most of Coahuila, Chihuahua, and Durango, and the eastern highlands of Sonora and Sinaloa, into northern Zacatecas and San Luis Potosí, and western Nuevo León. Elevations range from near 231 m (700 ft.) in Texas to 2804 m (9200 ft.) in Durango, Mexico.

Prior to Smith (1936[1938]), who questioned some old reports of the species in Arizona, the Stejneger and Barbour checklists (1917, 1923, 1933, 1939) noted the species' range as "Texas to Arizona". Van Denburgh (1922) exclaimed that "among some 5,000 reptiles collected by us in Arizona are no specimens of this lizard". Webb (2006) regarded *S. poinsettii* to be absent from the Peloncillo Mountains in New Mexico and Arizona.

Smith mapped localities rangewide (1936[1938], 1939), but map symbols for *S. cyanogenys* refer to *S. poinsettii*. Morafka (1977a) commented on the occurrence of this species in the Chihuahuan Desert, and (1977b) provided a range map. Tanner (1975) plotted specific localities in Eddy County, New Mexico, and Degenhardt et al. (1996) mapped all localities in New Mexico. Van Devender and Worthington (1977) noted its absence from the Little Hatchet Mountains in southwestern New Mexico, but speculated that it might possibly occur there. Webb (2006) commented on its non-continuous, east-west distribution across southern New Mexico (range boundaries previewed in Axtell 1977). Map symbols herein reflect localities recorded in Webb (2006), as well as other Texas localities (early records compiled in Brown 1950 and Raun and Gehlbach 1972) mapped in Axtell (1987). Localities in Coahuila (Webb 2006) are supplemented by those recorded in Smith et al. (2005a,b). Published localities are mentioned in Webb (2006).

Webb (2006) commented on a specimen from a disjunct locality in Jalisco (see **Remarks**, *S. p. macrolepis*). King and Krakauer (1966) reported that an animal importer had released about 60 *Sceloporus poinsettii* in the vicinity of Hialeah (Dade County, Florida) between May and September 1964; the species has not since been sighted there.

Sceloporus poinsettii is sympatric with *S. jarrovii* (Ballinger 1978, Drake 1958, Ortega et al. 1982, Smith 1936[1938], Van Devender and Lowe 1977, Webb 1967), *S. cyanogenys* (Smith 1939, Smith and Alvarez 1974), *S. ornatus* (Hunsaker 1962, pers. obs., southern Coahuila), *S. cyanostictus* (Axtell and Axtell 1971, Guttman 1970 [as "*S.* (?)"]), *S. torquatus* (pers. obs., Durango, Zacatecas), and the taxa *oberon* (Smith and Brown 1941) and *lineolateralis* (pers. obs., eastern Durango).

• **FOSSIL RECORD**. *Sceloporus poinsettii* is recorded from Pleistocene sites in Texas by Holman (1968) and Logan and Black (1979). Holman (1995) summarized the Pleistocene regional occurrence of *S. poinsettii* as the Southern Plains region. Mead et al. (1999) noted a Pleistocene maxilla and dentary "similar to" *S. poinsettii* from Nuevo León, México. Hester (1982[1983]) reported the occurrence of burned bones of this species with a Paleo-Indian occupation site (9000 ybp) at Baker Cave, Val Verde County, Texas, suggesting this species was occasionally eaten. Applegarth (1979) reported this species from 3 archeological sites (oldest 2930±60 ybp) west of Carlsbad, Eddy County, New Mexico. Rodgers (1976) utilized Recent *S. poinsettii* for comparison with some subfossil species of *Sceloporus*, and Sullivan (1982) noted tooth crown morphology of some Wyoming fossil material as "nearly identical" to that of large individuals of *S. poinsettii*.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE**. References by topic include **anatomy and morphology** (Beuchat 1986; Beuchat et al. 1985; Blob 2000; Burstein et al. 1974; Costelli 1973; Etheridge 1964; Fox 1976; Gundy and Wurst 1976; Herrel et al. 2002; Holman 1969b; Hunsaker and Johnson 1959; Larsen and Tanner 1974; Lemire 1985; McDowell and Bogert 1954; Meylan 1982; Moody 1983; Mulaik 1946; Olson et al. 1986, 1987; Presch 1970; Renous-Lécuru 1973; Secoy 1971; Tenney and Tenney 1970; Vleck et al. 1982; Yatkola 1976), **behavior** (Ballinger et al. 1995; Carpenter 1978, 1986; Cooper 1984; Cooper et al. 2000; Ferguson 1977; Hunsaker 1962; Köhler and Heimes 2002; Martins 1993; Olson 1990; Ord and Blumstein 2002; Ord et al. 2002; Punzo 2002; Purdue and Carpenter 1972a,b; Pyburn 1955; Wiens 2000), **bibliographies** (Archie 1992; Axtell 1987; Dixon 1987, 1993, 2000; McCranie and Wilson 1990; Raun and Gehlbach 1972; Smith "1936"[1938]); Smith and Smith 1969, 1976, 1993), **checklists, keys and similar compendia** (Aguilar-Olvera 1971; Anonymous 2007; Beltz 1995; Burt 1936, "1936" [1937]; Chrapliwy and Fugler 1955; Cochran 1961; Cope 1875, 1886; Dugès 1888; e^{2}M 2006; Flores-Villela 1993; Flores-Villela et al. 1991, 1995; Liner 1994, 2007; R. Powell et al. 1998; B.F. Powell et al. 2003, 2006; Schmidt 1953; Scudday 1973; Slevin 1934; Stejneger and Barbour 1917, 1923, 1933, 1939, 1943; Szarski 1960; TAES and TWRI 2002; Treviño Saldaña 1980; Van Denburgh 1924; Wilson and McCranie 1979), **commercial trade** (Fitzgerald et al. 2004; Franke and Telecky 2001; Jester et al. 1990), **ecology** (Angilleta et al. 2004; Aseff-Martinez 1967; Axtell 1959, 1987; Axtell and Axtell 1971; Bailey 1905, 1913; Baker et al. 1980; Ballinger 1973, 1978; Barbault 1975, 1976; Barbault and Grenot 1977; Barbault and Maury 1981; Blair 1950; Brown 1950, 1970; Campbell and Boecklen 2002; Camper and Dixon 1988; Carignan 1988; Castañeda-G. et al. 2005; Chaney and Gordon 1954; Clobert et al. 1998; Cole 1963; Contreras 2004; Contreras-Lozano et al. 2007; Cope 1880; Domínguez et al. 1974 [1977]; Drake 1958; Durtsche

et al. 1997; Estrada-Rodriguez et al. 2004; Gadsden et al. 2006; Gehlbach 1979; Gloyd and Smith 1942; Greene 1988; Grenot 1983; Grenot and Serrano 1982; Harper 1982; Jameson and Flury 1949; Jones 2005; Kimmons 1969; Lazcano et al. 2006; Lemos Espinal 1999; Lowe 1955; Maury and Barbault 1981; McCranie and Wilson 1987; McCrystal 1991; Mecham 1979; Milstead 1953, 1960; Milstead et al. 1950; Minton 1959; Morafka 1977a,b; Mosauer 1932; Olson 1973; Ortega et al. 1982; Ramirez-Bautista et al. 2002; Ridenour 2002; Ruthven 1920; Scheibe 1987; Shlefsky 2003; Smith and Buechner 1947; Smith and Sanders 1952; Stinnett 1975; Strecker 1909; Taylor 1931; Tinkle 1976; Vinegar 1975; Wauer 1971; Webb 1970, 1984; Webb and Baker 1962), **evolution and phylogenetics** (Ashton and Feldman 2003; Benabib et al. 1997; Blob 2000; Carpenter 1978; Cox et al. 2003; de Queiroz and Ashton 2004; Flores-Villela et al. 2000; Guillette et al. 1980; Guttman 1970; Harmon et al. 2003; Lang 1989; Larsen and Tanner 1974, 1975; Martinez-Mendez and Méndez-De la Cruz 2007; Martins 1993, 1994; Méndez-De la Cruz et al. 1998; Metzger and Herrel 2005; Mindell et al. 1989, 1990; Murphy and Lovejoy 1998; Ord et al. 2001; Porter et al. 1994; Reeder 1995; Reeder and Wiens 1996; Sanderson 1990; Sites et al. 1992; Smith 1936 [1938], 1939; Smith 2001; Warheit et al. 1999; Wiens 1993, 1999, 2000; Wiens and Penkrot 2002; Wiens and Reeder 1997; Wiens et al. 1999), **food habits** (Alvarez and Polaco 1983; Ballinger 1978; Ballinger et al. 1977; Barbault et al. 1978, 1985; Cooper 1994, 2003; Cooper et al. 2001, 2005, 2006; Knowlton 1948; Méndez-De la Cruz et al. 1992; Pough 1973; Ramírez-Bautista et al. 2002; Smith and Milstead 1971), **general works** (Degenhardt et al. 1996; Köhler and Heimes 2002; Lemos Espinal and Smith 2007a,b; Webb 1988, 2006; Werning 2002), **herpetoculture** (Anonymous 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995), **karyology** (Arévalo el al. 1994; Cole et al. 1967; Creer et al. 1997; Hall 1973; Král 1969; Lowe et al. 1966; Pennock 1969; Porter et al. 1994; Schwenk et al. 1982; Sites et al. 1992), **parasites** (Brennan 1945; Colwell 1971; Gambino 1958; Gambino and Heyneman 1960; Goldberg et al. 1993, 1995; Jack 1959; Mathewson *in* Murphy and Myers 1993; McAllister et al. 1994; Telford 1978, 1988, 1996; Wozniak et al. 1996a-c; Zwart et al. 1970), **physiology** (Bogert 1949; Brattstrom 1965 [both cited in Avery 1982, former cited in Andrews 1998]; Brainerd and Owerowicz 2006; Dawson and Poulson 1962 [cited in Dessauer 1970]; Llewellyn et al. 1997; Masters 1956; Murphy 1999; Newlin and Ballinger 1976; Pough 1979; Snyder and Sheafor 1999; Vial 1984; Wyles and Gorman 1978), **predation** (Armstrong and Murphy 1979; Delibes and Hiraldo 1987; Fisher 1901; Hiraldo et al. 1991; Johnson et al. 2000; Lazcano et al. 2006; Marr 1944; Murray 1939; Poulin et al. 2003; Sherrod 1978; Tennant 1984; Thiollay 1981), **reproduction** (Ballinger 1973, 1978; Charnov et al 1993; Fitch 1970, 1978, 1985; Gadsden et al. 2005; Pianka 1986; Punzo 1982; Shine and Charnov 1992).

• **NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY**. *Sceloporus poinsettii* has been recognized as either a distinct species or a subspecies of *S. torquatus* (see synonymy in Smith, "1936"[1938]). The subspecific relationship, initially implied by Bocourt 1874 and followed by Cope 1885 and Boulenger 1885, was abandoned after Smith's ("1936"[1938], 1939) detailed studies, and recognition as a full species (Stejneger and Barbour 1943; Schmidt 1953). Smith and Chrapliwy (1958) first recognized subspecies of *S. poinsettii, S. p. macrolepis* and *S. p. polylepis*. Olson (1998) proposed that *Sceloporus p. poinsettii* and *S. mucronatus* are conspecific, which prompted Auth et al. (2000) to employ appropriate name-combinations (*S. p. aureolus, S. p. mucronatus*, and *S. p. omiltemanus*); subsequent study revealed geographic variation in *S. mucronatus* (Webb et al. 2002; Bell et al. 2003; see also comment about *S. poinsettii* and *S. mucronatus* in Smith et al. 2000:128). Webb (2006) described 2 more subspecies, *S. p. amydrus* and *S. p. axtelli*, recognizing a total of 5 with centrifugal differentiation at the periphery of the range.

• **REMARKS**. The double-*i* suffix of *poinsettii* is the correct original spelling of the species name, with *poinsetti* an incorrect subsequent spelling (ICZN (1999, Art. 33.4), but either spelling (suffix *-i* or *- ii*) is correct if it is originally proposed in the description of a species (see example under Art. 31.1.3).

Bell et al. (2003) updated assignment of species of *Sceloporus* to valid species-groups (*S. poinsettii, S. torquatus* group). Use of the earlier-used *S. poinsettii* group (Smith 1939) was explained in Smith ("1936" [1938]) and in the brief historical comment in Bell et al. (2003).

An adult female paralectotype has the same collection data as the lectotype and was catalogued with the same number. Taylor (1931) restricted the type-locality to the "Devil's River", and Smith and Taylor (1950a,b) and Schmidt (1953) restricted the type-locality to the "Rio San Pedro [Val Verde County, Texas]" without comment, which is the locality of the 3 additional paralectotypes (Webb 1988).

The generally recognized common name for this species, Crevice Spiny Lizard (Crother et al. 2000; Collins and Taggart 2002), was first used by Conant et al. (1956).

• **ETYMOLOGY**. The name *poinsettii* honors Joel Roberts Poinsett (Moll 2006), born in Charleston, South Carolina, who became the first Minister of the United States to Mexico (appointed in 1825), Secretary of War (1837-1841), and was a museum advocate. Other names derived as follows: *amydrus* (Gr. AMYDROS, AMYDR-, indistinct, dim, obscure) in allusion to the reduced or absent dorsal body pattern of adults; *axtelli*, patronym for Ralph W. Axtell; *macrolepis* (Gr. MAKROS, long [here and often used to mean large] and Gr. LEPIS, f., scale) in reference to

the large dorsal body scales; and *polylepis* (Gr. POLYS, many and Gr. LEPIS, f., scale) in reference to the small dorsal body scales.

1. *Sceloporus poinsettii poinsettii* Baird and Girard
New Mexico Crevice Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus poinsettii Baird and Girard 1852:126. See species synonymy.
S[celoporus]. p[oinsetti]. poinsetti: Smith and Chrapliwy, 1958:268. First use of trinomial.
Sceloporus poinsettii poinsettii: Cochran 1961:141. Emendation.

• **DEFINITION**. Top of head dark (often near black) and white-speckled; dark body crossbands usually not of solid color, consisting mostly of pale black-edged scales; medium-sized dorsal scales, averaging 31.9 (29–35); anterior frontal longitudinally divided (98%). See **Figure 1.**

2. *Sceloporus poinsettii amydrus* Webb
Clouded Crevice Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus poinsettii amydrus Webb, 2006:79. Type-locality, "3.7 road miles (unpaved) south of Gonzalez Ortega [site is ca. 23°54'30"N, 103°27' 25"W], Zacatecas." Holotype, Univ. Texas at El Paso (UTEP) 6190, female, collected by Robert G. Webb, 15 July 1977.

• **DEFINITION**. Head brownish, mostly patternless (indistinct pale postocular blotches and intertympanic band, or absent); narrow black collar (2–3 scales wide); dorsal body pattern absent, or having indistinct crossbands or scattered small dark marks; large dorsal scales averaging 28.9 (26–33); anterior frontal entire (88%), not longitudinally divided; high average number of femoral pores (12.2, 9–16, one leg).

3. *Sceloporus poinsettii axtelli* Webb
Texas Crevice Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus poinsettii axtelli Webb, 2006:82. Type-locality, "21 road miles south (St. Hwy 118) Alpine, Brewster County, Texas." Holotype, Univ. Texas at El Paso (UTEP) 10613, adult male, collected by Jerry D. Johnson, 17 May 1985.

• **DEFINITION**. Dark postocular streaks, and pale postocular blotch-like areas that indent sides of a dark cruciform blotch on rear of head; body patterns sexually dimorphic in adults with females crossbanded (vertebral areas may be darkened) and males with faded crossbands except for prominent black vertebral blotches separated by white spots; medium sized dorsal scales averaging 33.6 (30–37). See **Figure 2.**

4. *Sceloporus poinsettii macrolepis* Smith and Chrapliwy
Largescale Crevice Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus poinsetti macrolepis Smith and Chrapliwy, 1958:268. Type-locality, "El Salto, Durango." Holotype, Univ. Illinois Mus. Nat. Hist. (UIMNH) 35455, adult male, collected by Barden and I.L. Firschein, 1952-1953 (examined by author).
Sceloporus poinsettii macrolepis: Cochran 1961: 141. Emendation.
S[celoporus]. p[oinsetti]. microlepis: Dominguez, Alvarez, and Huerta, "1974"[1977]:134. *Lapsus*.
Sceloporus p[oinsettii]. robisoni Tanner 1987:398. Type-locality, "Cuiteco, Chihuahua." Holotype, Monte L. Bean Life Sci. Mus., Brigham Young Univ. (BYU) 14287, adult male, collected by Wilmer W. Tanner and W. Gerald Robison, Jr., 19 July 1958 (examined by author).

• **DEFINITION**. Head uniformly dark (often black) lacking prominent pale postocular blotches and intertympanic band in adults; black collar usually lengthened posteriorly; usually 2–3 broad, unicolor body crossbands; large dorsal body scales averaging 28.6 (25–31); anterior frontal entire (93%), not longitudinally divided. See **Figure 3.**

• **REMARKS**. Paratypes are listed in Cochran (1961), Duellman and Berg (1962), Smith et al. (1964), Tanner (1970), and Marx (1976), some of which have been reassigned to either *S. p. amydrus* or morphological intermediate variants (Webb 2006). Webb (2006) mentioned an adult male from an isolated locality in the Sierra Manantlán, Jalisco, some 395 air km to the south of the closest locality in the Sierra Madre Occidental) (not depicted here on **Map**); descriptive features are most like those of *S. p. macrolepis*.

5. *Sceloporus poinsettii polylepis* Smith and Chrapliwy
Smallscale Crevice Spiny Lizard

Sceloporus poinsetti polylepis Smith and Chrapliwy 1958:269. Type-locality, "18 miles N Escalón, Chihuahua [Mexico]." Holotype, Univ. Illinois Mus. Nat. Hist. (UIMNH) 21464, adult male, collected by David H. Dunkle and Hobart M. Smith, 25 June 1934 (examined by author). See **Remarks**.
Sceloporus poinsettii polylepis Cochran, 1961:141. Emendation (see **Remarks** under species above).

• **DEFINITION**. Rear of head black (no cruciform blotch) with short white postocular bars and other small whitish marks; body patterns sexually dimorphic in adults, with irregular pattern of pale and dark marks in females and black vertebral blotches (separated by white spots) in males; small dorsal body scales averaging 37.5 (33–41); anterior frontal entire (90%), not longitudinally divided; maximal SVL not exceeding 100 mm. See **Figure 4.**

• **REMARKS**. Webb (2006) regarded the holotype of *S. p. polylepis* as an intermediate morphological vari-

ant and the surrounding topotypic area a region of intergradation, and reassigned the name *polylepis* to a distinctive population (sharing in part features of topotypic material) having geographic and morphological integrity that lacked any other previous name.

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